



19 March 1975
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THE JOINT STAFF

MEMORANDUM FOR LIEUTENANT GENERAL SAM V. WILSON, D/DCI/IC

Subject: Perspectives for Intelligence 1976-1981

1. At the meeting on 12 March 1975 of the NSCIC Working Group, you solicited additional comments on subject draft. Accordingly, the following remarks are submitted.

a. Part I - Major World Problems. Paragraph 1, General, page 1. The sentence beginning "assumption by the OPEC...", should be a separate paragraph addressing critical imported materials in general, i.e., aluminum, chrome, platinum, iron ore, nickel, natural rubber, etc., in addition to oil. A five year projection must go far beyond the problems with oil.

b. Paragraph 2, The USSR, page 2. The sentence beginning, "In its economic policy...", should be changed to attempt to project both the kinds of growth that might be anticipated and where it might be projected abroad.

c. Paragraph 2, The USSR, page 3. The sentence beginning, "In attempting to exploit the Arab/Israeli...", should attempt a more specific projection to identify areas for international crises which would be most injurious to U.S. interests, i.e., regions of important trade routes such as South Africa, Indonesia, or of critical imported materials; chromium, etc.

d. Paragraph 3, China (Change to read People's Republic of China) page 4. Delete the first paragraph because discussing an almost certain change of leadership in PRC belabors the obvious.

e. Paragraph 3, China, page 5. Sentence beginning "China will continue gradually...", should be linked with the statement that, "Internationally China will endeavor to become the ideological leader of the Third World." The opinion expressed is that when the PRC gains a capability with strategic weapons, it will choose to become a leader of the Third World. PRC is doing that now. Is this strategic approach likely to develop a conflict for leadership of the Communist World?

f. Paragraph 4, Western Europe, page 5. The sentence, "Most Western European nations...", should identify more specifically those countries under severe economic strains, i.e., Italy, and, therefore, most likely to cause related problems such as loss of the southern flank of NATO, the loss of homeporting in the Mediterranean, or the facility for Sixth Fleet access to the Mediterranean.

g. Paragraph 4, Western Europe, page 6. The sentence, "so will the LDC producers of raw materials." Should identify the producers of raw materials (as mentioned above) critical to the U.S. and Western Europe.

h. Paragraph 5, Eastern Europe, page 6. Sentence beginning, "The five-year period could see an explosion from within one or more...", should list specifically the country or countries considered likely to "explode."

i. Paragraph 7, New Powers and Blocs, page 7. Mentions "efforts by small nations to exert greater control over other important raw materials, such as copper..." Recommend deleting copper as an example, because the U.S. is virtually self-sufficient in copper and thus not exposed to cartel-like action by foreign producers.

j. Paragraph 8, The Third World, page 8. Sentence beginning, "The newly rich powers will rapidly expand their military capabilities; some will develop nuclear armaments, however primitive." This statement should try to predict which powers are most likely to attain nuclear arms by 1981.

2. The above remarks are proposed to enhance the degree of specificity of this Perspective on the next five years. Similar oral remarks were made about the priorities assigned. The period 1976-1981 is close at hand for "long term research, development and planning," so more precise ordering of priorities is imperative.

3. Before ordering priorities, of course, there must be an understanding of the criteria for setting priorities. The "Perspectives" are issued by the DCI to provide guidance to the intelligence community. If "Perspectives" is meant to be something akin to a national collection plan, then the priorities could indicate the resources to be dedicated to a target area. Is the level of resources used based upon the difficulty of collecting against a target? The USSR and PRC are clearly first priority targets on that basis. Or does the level of effort depend upon the amount of information collected at least cost?

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Clearly, it is somewhere in between, but the point is that the criteria must be set forth.

4. These comments are submitted in addition to oral comments that I made during the 12 March 1975 meeting. Specifics on my oral comments were given to General Thomas on 13 March.

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ROBERT P. HILTON
Rear Admiral, USN
Deputy Director for
Force Development
and Strategic Plans